Narrator: In a few moments, we will be retiring the flag of the United States of America.

This is a solemn ceremony, and we ask that you all show the proper respect for the flag and those who have fought so hard for it and all it represents.

Please sit and remain quiet until the ceremony is finished.

The following is a direct quotation from the beginning of Title 36, Section 176, of the laws of the United States of America:

> No disrespect should be shown the flag of the United States of America.

Furthermore, Paragraph K of Title 36, Section 176 states:

> The Flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

We will now retire the flag.

Narrator: Our flag is the symbol of our country. Have you ever stopped to think that the flag really means?

The blue in our flag stands for the valor with which our ancestors fought and died in the many battles that have been fought for our country and all for which it stands.

The white stands for the purity in all of our hearts. It also represents the honor that each of us should show in our everyday lives.

The red stands for all of the men and women who have died in the service of our country, both as members of the armed forces, and as everyday citizens.

Our flag has been carried into every battle into which there have been United States citizens, from the American Revolution to the Civil War, to World War I and World War II, to the Korean Conflict, from Vietnam to Desert Storm and the fight for freedom in the Middle-East.

It has flown over some battles that were never declared, such as Beirut where the Marine barracks were blown up by terrorists. In New York City it flew over ruins from a cowardly attack.

In all of these, we, the American People, have stayed true to the values that the flag represents.

We should always value the sacrifices that have been made for our flag and the country that it represents.

We have an old friend here who has fulfilled his duty to our country. He has become worn and tattered and we are here tonight to retire him with honor.

We shouldn't be sad about the retirement of our friend.
We are not burning him in anger, our friend can continue to serve in our thoughts.

Narrator pauses for a few seconds.

Narrator: Would all the Veterans with us tonite, please come and join our line behind the flag.

Veterans come and stand behind the flag retirement crew.
When all are in place, the narrator continues...

The readings for each stripe:

First Stripe - "The thirteen stripes stand for the thirteen original colonies which are: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island."

Second Stripe - "The white stands for purity"

Third Stripe - "The red stands for courage"

Fourth Stripe - "Give me liberty or give me death"

Fifth Stripe - "One if by land, two if by sea"

Sixth Stripe - "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution on the United States of America."

Seventh Stripe - "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Eighth Stripe - "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Ninth Stripe - "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or press."

Tenth Stripe - "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Eleventh Stripe - "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state because they are female."

Twelfth Stripe - "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Thirteenth Stripe - "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

(at this time, Play the John Wayne explanation of Taps)

After all the stripes have been burned, - As the last crew member, with the blue field, places the last section on the fire, the Narrator calls the Scouts assembly to Salute.

Narrator: Scouts! Salute!

And all are silent as Taps is played, Salute Continues until the entire piece burns to ash for the duration of Taps.

Narrator: Tu!

The crew members returns to their places around the campfire.

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